

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is hereby requested. Claims 1 and 2-19 have been reviewed and, where appropriate, have been amended to address this rejection. Therefore, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

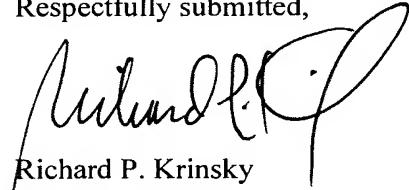
Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-4, 6 and 14-16 under §102(b) as being anticipated by Eaton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,295,641) and the rejection of Claims 5, 7-13 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eaton et al. '641, is hereby requested. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 2. Claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants assert that Eaton et al. '641 does not disclose a “radial groove, starting from a through-hole of the friction ring and through which through-hole the clamping bolt passes, is extended outward away from a center longitudinal axis of the hub”, as claimed in amended Claim 1 (emphasis added). Therefore, Claim 1 is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested. Claims 3-19 depend from Claim 1 and are considered to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reason as Claim 1 and for their own limitations as well, and such is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 is added. Claim 20 includes the subject matter of original Claims 1, 4 and 8, as amended to address the §112, second paragraph rejections, as noted above. Applicants assert that Eaton et al. '641 does not disclose or render obvious “wherein the head of each of the plurality of sliding elements includes two sides which run parallel to one another and bear against side walls of an associated one of the plurality of radial grooves”, as stated in Claim 20. Eaton et al. '641 discloses a rounded, dowel 6 designated in the Office Action as the sliding element. The sliding elements having two sides running parallel to one another (thereby being planar) provide a form fit to deal with high dynamic loading in the region bearing against the side walls of the radial grooves (see paragraph [00024] of the Specification). Applicants submit that the shape of the heads is not an obvious variant and it would not be obvious to redesign the sliding element of Eaton et al. There is no suggestion, motivation or reason disclosed in Eaton et al. to do so and any redesign would be based on hindsight provided by the present disclosure of Applicants. Therefore, Claim 20 is considered to be in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Claims 1 and 2-20 and the Application are now in condition for allowance and such is hereby requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (566/44949).

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure(s): Amendments to and Listing of the Claims

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